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Docket No. 2013-201-WS

October 3, 2013

The Public Service Commission of South Carolina  
Attn: Clerk's Office  
P.O. Drawer 11649  
Columbia, SC 29211

RECEIVED  
OCT 10 2013  
PSC SC  
CLERK'S OFFICE

Dear Madam or Sir:

I am a resident of the Shandon subdivision near Rock Hill and a water/sewer customer of Utilities Services of SC, Inc. (henceforth USSC). I am writing to protest the proposed 47% increases in water fixed monthly charge and water rate charge, and the proposed 58% increase in the sewer monthly fixed charge.

I believe the *current* charges for water and sewer are excessive, and I would like to demonstrate this by comparing our charges to those of a Rock Hill resident using public water and sewer service. Based on the assumption of 4500 gallons of water use per month (approximately the average use for a family), at current Rock Hill rates, a resident would be charged \$50.85 per month. At the current USSC rates, again assuming 4500 gallons of water use per month, a Shandon resident is charged \$84.51 by USSC. Thus the USSC average total charge per month at the current rates is 66.2% higher than a neighboring Rock Hill customer pays.

If the proposed new USSC rates are allowed, again assuming 4500 gallons of water use per month, a Shandon resident will be charged \$127.44 per month. Thus, the USSC average total charge per month under the proposed rates will be two-and-a-half times as much as a Rock Hill customer pays.

If USSC wants to keep its customers satisfied, it should strive to provide us with service at prices comparable to what our neighbors in the city pay (keep in mind that we are just outside the city limits, not on the far edge of York Country). Instead, USSC is asking for a substantial increase to charges that are already non-competitive.

Now, in fairness I must point out that because Shandon is not within the corporate limits of Rock Hill, we could not actually get the rates Rock Hill charges to in-city residents. If Rock Hill's public utilities provided our water (as they do our electricity and gas), we would be charged higher base charges and rates than customers inside the city limits. Again assuming 4500 gallons of water use per month, but this time at the out-of-city rates, a Shandon resident would pay \$99.61 if Rock Hill provided the services. The current USSC charges (\$84.51) are slightly lower than this figure, but if the proposed new USSC rates go into effect, then a Shandon USSC customer will pay \$127.44 per month on average, and that will be 27% more than what Rock Hill would charge to an out-of-city customer.

In short, USSC's proposed new rates will be two-and-a-half times what Rock Hill charges city residents, and even 27% higher than what Rock Hill charges people in the nether regions of York

County. The proposed rates should not be allowed. If USSC wants to keep our business, it needs to keep its charges more in line with what our neighbors pay other providers.

Thank you for your consideration of our protest.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Fairbairn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Don Fairbairn  
3035 Wexford Drive  
Rock Hill, SC 29730